

U.S.S.N.: 10/711,448

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04658 (LC 0162 PUS)

REMARKS

In the Action, claims 2-7, 13, 14, and 16-18 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim but were found allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have adopted the Examiner's suggestion to expedite issuance of the application as a patent, in view of the application pending for over 2 years.

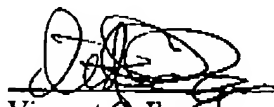
With this Amendment, claim 21 has been added including the allowable subject matter of claim 2 and the limitations of claim 1. Claim 22 has been added including the allowable subject matter of claim 13 and the limitations of claim 9. Claim 23 has been added including the allowable subject matter of claim 16 and the limitations of claim 9.

Also, in the Action, claims 1, 8-12, 15, 19, and 20 were rejected 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by the Schofield patent (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0040941). However, with this Amendment, it is submitted that the rejection has been rendered moot.

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims remaining in the case, namely claims 3-8, 10-12, 14, 15, 17, 18, and 21-23, are in proper form and patentably distinguish from the prior art. Accordingly, allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issuance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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